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Pope Francis returned 30 rubber bands monthly

by Thomas C. Fox

NCR Today

Francis hope note

Last week I shared the story that Pope Francis had surprised the owner of a kiosk in Buenos Aires with a telephone call to explain that he would no longer need a morning paper delivered each day.

Daniel Del Regno, the kiosk owner's son, answered the phone and, in disbelief, accused the caller of pulling a prank.

The voice insisted he was Cardinal Jorge. "Seriously, it's Jorge Bergoglio, I'm calling you from Rome," the pope insisted.

That was not the entire story. There's more.

The boy's father, Luis Del Regno, also told a Buenos Aires newspaper that the former cardinal was an impressive conservationist. Luis said he would place rubber bands around the cardinal's newspapers to keep them from being blown away when he delivered them.

"At the end of the month, Luis said, Bergoglio always bring them back to the kiosk. "All 30 of them!"

By the way, no word yet on when or if - Pope Francis will move into the papal apartments.

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